

REMARKS

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated June 18, 2009. Claims 11 to 17 are in the application, of which Claim 11 is independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to affirm his telephonic election of Group I, allegedly directed to a photovoltaic element. This election is made without traverse.

Applicant notes that he has not yet received an acknowledgment of the claim for foreign priority or receipt of the certified copy. Such acknowledgment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. These rejections are respectfully traversed, and are submitted to have been obviated by the amendments made herein.

Claims 1 to 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,651,837 (Ohtsuka) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,942,048 (Fujisaki). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a second transparent-electrode-layer removed portion in which the transparent electrode layer is not present is provided in a region to which the welded portion of the rear surface side bus-bar electrode is opposed, with the metal substrate disposed between said region and the welded portion.

By virtue of the foregoing feature, it is possible to prevent the short-circuiting of a metal substrate and a transparent electrode that can occur when a rear surface side bus-bar electrode is welded to the metal substrate. This short-circuiting is

caused by the heat exerted during welding, which can reduce the resistance of the photovoltaic element located above the welded portion.

Neither Ohstsuka nor Fujisaki, even in the proposed combinations, assuming, *arguendo*, that such could be combined, is seen to disclose or suggest at least the above-discussed feature.

The dependent claims are also submitted to be patentable because they set forth additional aspects of the present invention and are dependent from the independent claim discussed above. Therefore, separate and individual consideration of each dependent claim is respectfully requested.

REQUEST FOR INTERVIEW

If upon consideration of this Amendment, the Examiner still has concerns as to the patentability of the claims, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner contact Applicant's undersigned representative to arrange a personal interview.

CONCLUSION

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/Damond E. Vadnais/
Damond E. Vadnais
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 52,310

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
1290 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10104-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

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